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Greetings from Iraq. The soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division's Special Troops Battalion have been doing a great job transitioning from our counterparts in the 3rd Infantry Division's STB. We are a few days away from our Transfer of Authority, but already performing many of the critical functions in support of the mission here. We have a new addition to the Battalion – A Company, 1-22 Infantry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, from Fort Hood is now attached and performing security missions for the Battalion. Now on for some news from the companies...

Captain Jennifer Phillips Headquarters and Headquarters Company "Innkeepers" have completed their transition to Iraq and all is moving along nicely. The Soldiers are doing a tremendous job learning and replacing the 3ID STB. Quality of life here in Iraq is much better than what we experienced in Kuwait. They are all living in trailers (no more tents) with real beds and linen. There are also two gyms available for their use with a variety of aerobics classes available. There is a couple of phone centers available to call back to the states. Internet connectivity should become more available once 3ID departs. The Dining Facility section has been doing a great job assuming duties in the Dining Facility. The Transportation Section has been engaged daily running bus missions to the military side of Baghdad International Airport. The Fuelers are making daily fuel runs in support of the Division Headquarters. The Medics are operating an Aide Station full time as well as supporting the Personnel Security Detachments. The Maintenance section has a never-ending mission with all of the vehicles we brought with us and those that were left back here for us. And as always, the Battalion Staff and Company Headquarters are working tirelessly every day to ensure all missions are well planned and executed. Congratulations go out to the following Soldiers who were promoted on 1 January 2006: PFC Aaron Young to Specialist; and, PV2 Ricky Moore to Private First Class. Thanks again to each and every one of HHC's families and supporters for your love, support and prayers. God Speed! Now on to the Division Troops Company with news from the Division Headquarters.

Greetings to the spouses, family, and friends of the soldiers of the deployed Division Troops Company, 4th Infantry Division. The Division Troops Company, over the past two weeks, has been conducting transition training with our counterparts in the 3rd Infantry Division staff. They have been knee-deep in learning about our areas of responsibility (Baghdad and the surrounding communities). As you see the Division Troops Company soldiers next to their 3rd Infantry Division counterparts, you can feel confident in the knowledge that we are thoroughly trained and ready to execute our mission when we assume full responsibility from the 3rd Infantry Division. Moving on to simpler things, DTC's soldiers have been settling into their new homes here on Camp Liberty. Their living accommodations are comfortable, with air conditioning, electricity, and all the other amenities which you would not normally expect in a deployed theater. Mail is beginning to flow regularly, with the standing up of the company mail room. Our

dining facility, the soon to be renamed “Rock of the Marne Oasis,” is outstanding. The quality of food served at this establishment has exceeded not only our expectations and our best hopes as well, with varied cuisine that fits any taste. Still, with all of these amenities, our soldiers deeply miss their loved ones. Captain John Poole, DTC’s Commander, encourages you, as he does each one of his soldiers, to take the time to remind each other how much they mean to you. God bless and IRONHORSE! Next up are the communicators from the Signal Company.

All of Alpha Company has now safely arrived in Iraq. The Company has successfully completed its Transfer of Authority (TOA) with 3rd Signal Company, 3ID, and is currently providing the primary means of data and voice communications to the 4th Infantry Division Headquarters. Their Electronic Maintenance Facility is fully operational and has begun operations; and the Cable Platoon has already started numerous projects to improve connectivity on the Forward Operating Base. Alpha Company soldiers conducted the TOA professionally, and with great success. Morale is high, and everyone is looking forward to completing the mission in the year ahead. Part of the high morale is also due to the motivation provided by our Division Band. Here are a few words about the best Band in the Army...

The 4ID Band has landed safely and is ready to accomplish the given tasks that have been directed by the Division. They started by performing a holiday season concert for the troops in Kuwait and Iraq, topping it off with a televised Fox News New Year’s Eve performance. Although the upcoming year will have many endeavors, the spirits and moral of the soldiers is extremely high and they are ready to face the challenges. The soldiers of the 4ID Band are the most talented musicians our Band Commander, Chief Warrant Officer Three Otha Hester, has served with in his almost 20 years of military service. Now for our Intel update from Delta Company.

The soldiers of D Company thank all their families, friends, and loved ones for your overwhelming support and kindness during this time of year. The Holiday Season is extremely difficult for the families and soldiers during a deployment. Although we are apart, our thoughts, prayers, and warm wishes are for their spouses, children, families and friends back home. Our soldiers have also been doing a lot of great things and we have had the opportunity to recognize their accomplishments. We were able to promote twelve very deserving soldiers on 1 January 2006: CW3 Mark Quarrell, CW3 Jeffrey Burns, SFC Robert Harrell, SGT Rayna Stanley, SGT Timothy Pena, SPC Christina Motley, SPC Michael Graham, SPC Jonathan Hilley, PFC Courtney Joyner, PFC Matthew Cornelius, PFC Jonathan Consier, and, PFC Justice Wallace. D Company soldiers are doing great things and remain focused on the mission at hand – providing the division with accurate, timely, and targetable intelligence. Although I am not at liberty to tell you what your husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, and friends have been doing, I can tell you that you should be extremely proud of their accomplishments, achievements and continued outstanding performance. Now I’d like to introduce the 363rd Military Public Affairs Detachment, a unit that I mentioned briefly in an FRG note from Kuwait.

The 363rd is an Army Reserve Public Affairs unit attached to the Division Public

Affairs shop. They have 18 members here at Camp Liberty with two more on the way. The unit's home is located in St Louis but they have members assigned from many other Reserve units in New York, Georgia, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Pennsylvania. One of their missions here is to support the Division Commander by publishing his newspaper, "THE IVY LEAF," it will be posted on the 4ID website for all of you to check out. They will also be producing the popular "Shout Outs" and many other news video productions for you to see back at home. They are proud to be part of the Iron Horse Division. Steadfast and Loyal!! Next up is a new unit that became attached to the Special Troops Battalion just recently...

We welcomed A Company, 1-22 Infantry over the last week. The Gators of A Company, are proud to be serving alongside their comrades in the 4th Infantry Division's Special Troops Battalion. They have been quickly integrated into the battalion and already feel like a part of the team. The company is based at Camp Liberty here in Baghdad with the rest of the STB. Along their journey, they made a stop in Kuwait for a couple of weeks to work on some things that will help to ensure their success throughout our deployment. They spent numerous days preparing their Bradley Fighting Vehicles, improving their marksmanship on small arms ranges, and training on the missions they are sure to encounter many times over the next year. Throughout it all, the soldiers of Alpha Company have maintained high morale and the focus that is required to stay safe and healthy. A few of the soldiers have experienced the bothersome coughs and congestion that are common when moving to a new region of the world, but it's nothing that some common medications can't remedy. I'd also like to welcome their FRG Leader, Mrs. Melissa Cummings, to the STB family. Please feel free to contact her at melissa.cummings@us.army.mil. Happy New Year from the Gators!

That's all for this note. As you can read, we have a big and diverse team to accomplish our very big and very diverse mission. I want to thank all of you for the support you are giving us. The mail and Email has been flowing. Many soldiers had packages that got here to Liberty before they arrived. Please continue to look after one another and feel free to contact my Rear Detachment Commander, Captain Jeff Jordan, for any issues you need help with. He can be reached at (254) 449-3184, or Email at Jeffrey.j.jordan@us.army.mil. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers, just as we are keeping you in ours.

Sincerely, LTC John Baker

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